

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, February 23, 2015**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, February 23, 2015, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Chairman Bento called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 PM.

Present: John Bento, Chairman; Paul Silva, Vice-Chairman; Karen Lynch, Secretary; Marjorie McBride, Treasurer; Diana Campbell, William O'Dell, John Saviano, Erin Schofield and Lynn Wainwright; Mario J. Andrade, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Mary N. Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title I; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Services; Pauline Silva, Director of Administration and Finance, and Andrew Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to go into executive session; seconded by Mrs. Lynch.

DISCUSSION: Hearing no objections from the School Committee members, Chairman Bento stated that the Executive Session would take place as the last order of business.

Mr. Saviano withdrew the motion.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

Personnel Recommendation #S2015-09

All items listed with an asterisk on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the School Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member requests, in which event the items will be withdrawn from the general order of business and considered in the normal sequence of the agenda.

Chairman Bento stated, for the record, that section D would be pulled from the Consent Agenda for a separate vote.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. Silva.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to seal the executive session minutes of the February 10, 2015 School Committee Regular Business Meeting; seconded by Mr. Saviano

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Bento stated, for the record, that due to a conflict, Mr. Silva would be recusing himself from voting on section D of the Consent Agenda.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve section D of the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. Saviano.

The motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Silva returned to the meeting.

S2015-9 A-D: CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position of Middle School Lead Teacher as listed below:

1. Jeffrey L. Grifka Lead Teacher (Social Studies) –

Kickemuit Middle

**Effective: Immediately, for the
Remainder of the 2014-15 school
year**

Reason: To fill a new position

Funding: Operational Budget

B. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

1. Bridget J. Carl Art/Elem/Sp.Ed.

2. Samantha J. Soares Sp.Ed.

C. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment

requirements:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

1. Karina L. Sullivan

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE

2. David R. Borges

D. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant leaves of absence for an Elementary School Psychologist and a Teacher Assistant as follows:

1. Lauren A. LePage School Psychologist – Colt Andrews

**Effective: April 24, 2015, for 6-8
weeks**

**Reason: Maternity leave in
accordance with Article 21, Section
L1 of the Master Agreement**

Lauren A. LePage School Psychologist – Colt Andrews

**Effective: Two weeks at the Start of
2015-16 School Year**

(Dates to be Confirmed)

**Reason: Parental leave in
accordance with Article 21, Section
L2 of the Master Agreement**

2. Laura L. Silva Teacher Assistant – Hugh Cole

**Effective: February 23, 2015 for up
to one year, pending release from
physician**

**Reason: Leave in accordance with
Article 20 of the Master Agreement**

RECOMMENDATION #S2015-10

**That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the
Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities
Subcommittee, accept the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget**

**MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the 2015-2016
Fiscal Year Budget; seconded by Mr. O'Dell.**

**DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride thanked all those who worked diligently
to produce the final FY16 budget request within the deadline despite
the weather cancellations and time constraints.**

Mrs. McBride opened the floor for questions.

Mrs. Campbell asked the Superintendent what his priorities were for the FY16 Budget.

Dr. Andrade responded sharing the following key components which he stated align with the School Committee Goals:

- K-8 STEM Coach**
- Digital Transformation Coach**
- Research and Development - Design Efficiencies**
- Increase student achievement and classroom instruction**

Dr. Andrade stated that the above key programs will be an investment into both educators and students.

Dr. Andrade further stated that the above initiatives will aid in keeping Bristol Warren Regional School District at the top of the state for providing the best education possible.

Mrs. Campbell asked whether the Five-Year Strategic Plan has been built into the FY16 budget.

Dr. Andrade responded that the FY16 budget does include allowance for the Five-Year Strategic Plan through enhancements and support

to STEM and 21st Century skills.

Mr. Silva stated, for clarification, that the FY16 Budget Request is based on the recently passed changes to the Enabling Legislation using a 13-year enrollment average to determine individual town contribution.

School Committee members praised the work of Dr. Andrade, Mrs. Silva, Budget Subcommittee members and all those involved for creating a bare bones FY16 budget that still provides for future innovations to the school community.

The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION #S2015-11

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve awarding the Maintenance Vehicle Bid.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee to award the Maintenance Vehicle bid; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride stated, for the record, that the lowest of the three bids received, Tasca Ford's F150, is being recommended for the Maintenance Vehicle Bid award.

Mrs. Wainwright asked a clarifying question which was answered by Mrs. McBride.

Mrs. McBride stated that replacement of the Maintenance Vehicle is part of the long-term plan to keep the District's fleet up to date in a manner that avoids replacing several vehicles at once.

The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION #S2015-12

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve accepting the Student Information System Contract.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve accepting the Student Information System Contract; seconded by Mr. O'Dell.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Andrade stated that the District is looking to update the current student information system which has been in place since 1994 and is essentially inadequate at this point. ASPEN Student Information System is being recommended. ASPEN is a more efficient and user friendly product with components that allow for homeschool communication and better tracking. Many districts in the East Bay utilize the ASPEN Student Information System. Bristol

Warren Regional School District will then be part of an East Bay Consortium with shared efficiencies once the ASPEN Student Information System is implemented.

Mrs. McBride added that the final choice of a student information system vendor was made under the guidance and supervision of Mr. Paul Morris, Director of Technology, who worked with a team of teachers, administrators, nurses and clerks to make the best informed choice for a student information system vendor.

The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION #S2015-13

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve the second reading of the Human Capital Management Policy (GCAA).

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the first reading of the Human Capital Management Policy (GCAA); seconded by Mrs. McBride.

The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION #S2015-14

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the

Superintendent, approve the request of (2) families to home school their children for the 2014-2015 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the home school requests; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Wainwright questioned why curriculum was not listed on one of the homeschool requests. Dr. Andrade responded that the family is using Bristol Warren Regional School District curriculum.

Mrs. McBride stated, for the record, that she will be voting no due to the late submission, in the month of February, of the homeschool requests.

The motion passed with a 7-1 vote, Mrs. McBride dissenting.

Subcommittee/School Committee Reports & Initiatives

Budget/Facilities Subcommittee

Mrs. McBride reported that the Joint Finance Committee meeting to pass the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee FY16 budget will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at the town hall in Warren. She encouraged all to attend.

Mrs. McBride thanked everyone who worked on the FY16 budget.

Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee

Mrs. Schofield reported that the next meeting of the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee will be held on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 6 p.m.

Mrs. Schofield shared information regarding a community forum on the PARCC Assessment that will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 6 p.m. in the Hugh Cole Cafeteria. She encouraged School Committee members and parents to attend. Members of RIDE and the Superintendent will be present.

Personnel/Contract Negotiations Subcommittee

Mr. Silva commented that he had nothing new to report and deferred to Mrs. Lynch for an update on Council 94 negotiations.

Mrs. Lynch reported that C94 met a week and a half ago and will be meeting again on Wednesday, February 25th. She stated that the meetings have been very productive on both sides.

Wellness Subcommittee

Mrs. Wainwright stated she had nothing new to report. The Wellness Subcommittee will be meeting this Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 4 p.m. in the District office.

Chairperson's Initiatives

School Committee Goals

Chairman Bento reported that the School Committee Goals will be discussed at the March workshop. He added that Mrs. Campbell has been facilitating input from School Committee members for the School Committee Goals. Mrs. Campbell added that she has requested three priorities from each School Committee member for the School Committee Goals. Chairman Bento requested that School Committee members review the Superintendent Goals as well.

Chairman Bento added that the School Committee will be reviewing the Strategic Plan this summer.

School Visits

Chairman Bento reported that at the March Workshop he will be giving a short presentation regarding highlights from his recent visits to the Bristol Warren schools.

PTO Meetings

Chairman Bento reported that one of the monthly individual school PTO meetings has been cancelled twice due to weather. The meeting is going to be rescheduled. Chairman Bento will inform the School Committee once he receives confirmation of a new date.

Mr. Silva clarified that monthly PTO meetings are held at each of the schools to afford an opportunity for the PTO Group members, School

Committee members and Superintendent to meet together.

Shout Outs

Chairman Bento acknowledged the great work of Mr. George Simmons, Director of Facilities, and his team in handling the abundance of snow both on the grounds and on the roofs ensuring safety for all. Dr. Andrade also thanked Mr. Simmons and his team for their tremendous work keeping the school grounds safe.

Mrs. Anderson shared that Ms. Amanda Giorgi, Special Educator at Hugh Cole School, has been "unanimously selected to receive the 2015 Division for Learning Disabilities (DLD) Outstanding Educator Award!" Amanda was nominated by Dr. Devin Kearns, Associate Professor of Special Education at UConn, through our work with NCII (National Center for Intensive Intervention) and selected by the committee because of her "commitment to providing students high-quality, data-driven, individualized intervention". Mrs. Anderson thanked former Superintendent Mrs. Thies, Dr. Andrade and Mrs. Sanna for supporting Ms. Giorgi's work.

Dr. Andrade thanked Mrs. Anderson for her tutelage of Bristol Warren Regional School District's special educators.

Chairman Bento thanked Mr. Jeff Grifka, Social Studies teacher at KMS and basketball coach, for his excellent coaching abilities.

Chairman Bento recognized Troup 6 Boy Scouts who were present at this evening's School Committee meeting to fulfill a requirement for their Communications Merit Badge. He thanked the boy scouts and their leader for attending.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Open Meetings Laws 42-46-5 (a)(1)(4) an Executive Session will be convened to discuss the following:

- 1. Personnel Recommendations #S2015-09**
- 2. Pending Police/School Investigation**

Chairman Bento stated, for the record, that no action would be taken during the executive session. The Open Session will only reconvene to adjourn.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:36 p.m.; seconded by Mr. O'Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Silva made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:55 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:55 PM

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM; seconded by Mrs.

Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd